THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, April 8, 1805.

A Relation of the unſucceſsful Attempt made by the French to conquer Upper Egypt, and the Cruelties they committed there.

[From Wilkes's Encyclopædia Londinenſis.]

WEAK minds are ſtruck with admiration and aſtoniſhment at the rapid progreſs of the French arms, and the blaze of glory attributed to Bonaparte, in having made a complete conqueſt of the whole territory of Upper and Lower Egypt, in the ſhort compaſs of only fourteen months! But this blaze will ſubſide, and all wonder vaniſh, the moment it is recollected that this vaſt conqueſt was made againſt an almoſt defenceleſs people, who were taken by ſurpriſe, who every where withdrew from the ſavage ſword of a northern depredator, who were worn down by inteſtine broils, and who had neither fortifications, nor troops, nor artillery, to oppoſe to the attacks and inroads of ſuch an unlooked-for enemy. The only ſtand that could be made, was heroically made by the undiſciplined mamelukes; and we have ſeen, that had their exertions been ſupported by an army of infantry verſed in European tactics, and put on an equal footing in point of ordnance, this conqueſt perhaps had never been attempted; or if it had, its completion would have been impoſſible. That we might reſt on this concluſion as the abſolute fact, will become evident on reflecting upon the complete reduction of theſe invincible French, who, though abſolute maſters of the country, and fortified up to the chin, were in a ſhort time compelled to ſubmit, and yield up all their conqueſts, to an army of little more than half their number; but as well diſciplined, and as invincible in courage.

To prove likewiſe, beyond the power of contradiction, the defenceleſs ſtate of Egypt, and the facility with which this prey might have fallen to the lot of any deſcription of freebooters, we need only repeat, from the elegant and elaborate work of Vivant Denon, the friend and companion of Bonaparte, his deſcription of the eaſy acquiſition of Alexandria, the ſtate of its fortifications, and the panic of its inhabitants, to eſtabliſh the fact: "After our landing, (ſays Denon,) the commander in chief gave a ſupper, to which the members of the newly conſtituted authorities were invited. They ſaw with equal ſurpriſe and admiration the martial elegance of our generals, and the aſſemblage of officers, on whoſe countenances beamed health and vigour, glory, and hope. They were ſtruck by the noble phyſiognomy of the commander in chief, the expreſſion of which ſeemed to augment his ſtature. The commotions which had taken place in the city on our arrival, had occaſioned the ſhutting up of the coffee-houſes, and other places of public amuſement. The more reſpectable inhabitants, not yet recovered from their aſtoniſhment at the ſudden events which had taken place, kept themſelves within doors; while our ſoldiers, heated by wine and by the climate, inſpired ſo much terror among the tradeſpeople and the lower claſſes, that they ſhut up their ſhops and hid their females. This fine city, where we ſaw no one but ourſelves, appeared dull to us. The ſtate of the forts, baſtions, and fortifications, ſeemed to announce to the army that nothing could impede its progreſs, and that it had only to march to victory."

Caught by the flow of words in the declaration of the firſt conſul, "that his motive for the conqueſt of Egypt was the deliverance and regeneration of the eaſtern world," too many have been led to admire his unbounded philanthropy, and dignity of mind. But in what noble or moral act, are either of theſe amiable endowments to be found? Are we to look into the preſcriptive right, which ought to have been the firſt foundation, whereon to ſeek his excluſive claim to the ſovereignty and ſoil of Egypt? Does he found it upon any ancient plea of conqueſt gained by St. Louis, and attached to the throne of thoſe princes, whoſe power he has uſurped in France? or, by turning muſſulman, has he proved the conſanguinity exiſting between his race and that of the great Saladin? But were either or all of theſe points to be admitted, ſtill his ſeizure of Egypt would only be raiſing a modern uſurpation upon the ruins of an ancient one, without eſtabliſhing any better claim to the territory, than one buccaneer would have by driving out another, and thus converting the property of the rightful owner to his own uſe. In perfect uniſon with ſuch a right, has been the philanthropic conduct of Bonaparte. Wherever the affrighted Egyptians would pay the miri, or tribute, and raiſe contributions of ſup-

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plies for the army, they were permitted to live; but where they dared to assume the common right of man, that of defending his own imprescriptible property, they were, in the words of Denon, "hunted down like wild beasts inimical to society." The same French author also recounts, but not without sentiments of extreme horror, that thousands of the defenceless inhabitants of various towns and villages were from time to time extirpated from the face of the earth, their houses plundered, and their lands laid waste! At Beneadi alone, twelve thousand souls perished at once by the relentless swords of this regenerating army, merely because Beneadi was considered as a "dangerous volcano, that was incessantly threatening them."

The island of Philoë, at the extremity of Upper Egypt, shared a similar fate. The peaceful inhabitants offered their supplies, but refused admission to the French troops on their island, contending that Philoë was an Ethiopian territory, and not under the mamelukes of Egypt. "These obstinate people (says Denon) signified to us that if we were to come there every day for two months successively, they would never suffer us to land. But as it would have given a bad example to suffer them to brave us with such insolence, so contiguous to our new establishments, we resolved the next day to make them change their tone. Accordingly the army, early in the morning, excited by the certainty of plunder, crossed the channel, began the attack under cover of the artillery, loaded with grape-shot, and quickly made a dreadful havoc among them. Terror and dismay were seen on every side; men, women, and children, plunged promiscuously into the river to escape by swimming, but where most of them perished: and still preserving their ferocious character, we saw mothers drowning their children whom they could not carry away, and mutilating the girls to prevent their being enjoyed by the victors. I found one girl so brutally cut, as to prevent her from performing the most pressing necessity of nature. In a word, the whole island was at once depopulated, and the miserable inhabitants suffered by their obstinacy a most serious and irreparable loss, which a long succession of years cannot retrieve. Our soldiers were now employed in ransacking the houses and emptying the stores, which afforded a seasonable supply to the troops." Yet Denon has these singular exclamation: "O man! from what source do you draw your virtues, if such ignoble passions lurk in the most honourable of all professions, that of warfare! O war! thou art brilliant in history, but frightful when viewed with all thy attending horrors, naked, and undisguised!" In short it is manifest, from the facts stated by Denon himself, that the lives of no less than forty thousand defenceless people were thus sported with, and perished under the regenerating auspices of the French army in Upper Egypt alone!

FUNERAL CUSTOMS *of* NORTH WALES.

[From a Tour through the moſt intereſting Parts of North Wales.]

THE moſt grateful and tender cuſtom of ſtrewing ſimple flowers and ever-greens over the graves of the departed is ſtill cheriſhed, with religious obſervance, throughout the more diſtant counties of North Wales. Mr. Pratt gives an account of a converſation, highly poetical, between himſelf and one of theſe harmleſs ſacrificers. I muſt confeſs that I could not diſcover ſuch refined and ſentimental perſons; but fancy eaſily chalked out the thouſand little tender links with which the performance of this ceremony muſt bind the memory of the deceaſed ſtill cloſer to the feelings of the mourning ſurvivor. One of the firſt diſtinctions, it will be recollected, of the primitive Chriſtians was a neglect of this inoffenſive cuſtom, it being conſidered alluſive to ancient mythology. "Becauſe," ſaid they, "the dead cannot ſmell, we offer no tribute to them!"—Cold and cheerleſs doctrine! As well as might we plead their inevitable inſenſibility as a reaſon for neglecting to venerate their memory. But what can be more obvious than that we do both the one and the other for the relief of our own feelings?—of thoſe feelings with which every thought of the deceaſed is inſeparably blended, and from the exerciſe of which the living are as much benefitted as the dead honoured.

The cemetry of Bangor church, like many others in the northern diſtricts of the principality, acquires an effect, at once ſolemn and gratifying, from the circumſtance of the graves being uniformly covered with tablets of ſlate, the black and ſober hue of which is preciſely adapted to funereal decorations. It is much to the credit of the Welſh, that their burial places are generally preſerved in neatneſs and privacy. You will very ſeldom ſee a churchyard over-run with noiſome weeds, as is but too frequently the caſe in England; much leſs, ſubject to the abominable cuſtom of affording paſture for the ſheep of the village butcher, or the cows of the vicar. The ſimplicity of their monumental inſcriptions likewiſe deſerves notice. The initials of the deceaſed, and the day on which he died (ſometimes that on which he was buried), generally form the "ſhort annals" of moſt claſſes of ruſtic Welſh. It is in very ſingular inſtances alone that you find thoſe verſes, either ſuperſtitious or abſurd, which are the diſgrace of our Engliſh churches. This appears extraordinary in a nation which has been deſcribed as ſo univerſally poetical. It indeed ſeems probable that the pariſh miniſter deems it incumbent on him to inſpect any epitaph deſigned for a pariſhioner. If ſuch be the caſe, and the effect ſo ſalutary, how much is it to be regretted that a ſimilar practice does not prevail in this country!

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The Welſh are not only peculiar in their methods of conſecrating the aſhes of their dead: the mode in which they inter them will appear equally remarkable, though, perhaps, leſs pleaſing. On the night prior to the intended ceremony, the friends of the deceaſed aſſemble at the houſe he lately occupied, accompanied by the prieſt and his clerk. Prayers for the departed are read, and poſſibly a part of the church ſervice. The moſt near and afflicted of the relatives then ſtrew flowers, attended with tears and ſighs, on the lid of the coffin: this done, the mourners, the reverend clergyman ſometimes not excepted, ſet in very cordially to ſmoking and drinking!

In the morning, the proceſſion, led by the divine, moves toward the church, a perſon ſtill ſtrewing before the corſe flowers, the affecting ſymbols of time and death! When the laſt duty is performed, the clergyman, ſtanding at the communion table, preſents a plate, into which each mourner drops an offering, proportioned not only to the ſtate of his finances, but the degree of reſpect in which he held the defunct. As the funerals are commonly attended by great numbers, theſe little fees of ceremony form a material branch of the rural clergy's revenue. A gentleman at Bangor told me, that he had lately attended the obſequies of a friend, at which were preſent from four to five hundred perſons, from whom the collection muſt have been conſiderable. When the buſineſs of the day was concluded, the whole party adjourned to different public houſes; the miniſter and the nearer relatives ſhortly adjourned: thoſe who remained, indulged in all the feſtivities of a wake, with as much indifference as if it were the wedding of their neighbour, inſtead of his burial.

CATHOLIC PETITION.

To the Right Honourable and Honourable the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament aſſembled.

The humble Petition of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, whoſe Names are hereunto ſubſcribed, on Behalf of themſelves and of others his Majeſty's lawful Subjects profeſſing the Roman Catholic Religion,

SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioners are faithfully attached to the perſon, family, and government of their moſt gracious ſovereign; that they are impreſſed with ſentiments of affectionate gratitude for the benignant laws which have been enacted for meliorating their condition during his parental reign; and that they contemplate

contemplate with rational and decided predilection the admirable principles of the Britiſh conſtitution. Your petitioners moſt humbly ſtate, that they have ſolemnly and publicly taken the oaths preſcribed by law to his majeſty's Roman Catholic ſubjects, as teſts of political and moral principles; and they confidently appeal to the ſufferings which they have long endured, and the ſacrifices which they ſtill make, rather than violate their conſciences, by taking oaths of a religious or ſpiritual import, contrary to their belief, as deciſive proofs of their profound and ſcrupulous reverence for the ſaid obligation of an oath.

Your petitioners beg leave to repreſent, that by theſe awful teſts they bind themſelves, in the preſence of the all-ſeeing Deity, whom all claſſes of Chriſtians adore, to be faithful and bear true allegiance to their moſt gracious ſovereign lord King George the Third, and him to defend to the utmoſt of their power, againſt all conſpiracies and attempts whatever, that ſhall be made againſt his perſon, crown, or dignity; to do their utmoſt endeavours to diſcloſe and make known to his majeſty and his heirs, all treaſons and traitorous conſpiracies, which may be formed againſt him or them, and faithfully to maintain, ſupport, and defend, to the utmoſt of their power, the ſucceſſion to the crown in his majeſty's family, againſt any perſon or perſons whatſoever; that by thoſe oaths they renounce and abjure obedience and allegiance unto any other perſon claiming, or pretending a right to the crown of this realm; that they reject and deteſt, as unchriſtian and impious, to believe that it is lawful in any ways to injure any perſon or perſons whatſoever, under pretence of their being heretics, and alſo that unchriſtian and impious principle, that no faith is to be kept with heretics; that it is no article of their faith, and that they renounce, reject, and abjure the opinions, that princes excommunicated by the pope and council, or by any authority whatſoever, may be depoſed or murdered by their ſubjects, or by any perſon whatſoever; that they do not believe that the pope of Rome, or any other foreign prince, prelate, ſtate, or potentate, hath, or ought to have, any temporal or civil juriſdiction, power, ſuperiority, or pre-eminence within this realm; that they firmly believe, that no act, in itſelf, unjuſt, immoral, or wicked, can ever be juſtified or excuſed by or under pretence or colour that it was done for the good of the church, or in obedience to any eccleſiaſtical power whatſoever, and that it is not an article of the catholic faith; neither are they thereby required to believe or profeſs that the pope is infallible, or that they are bound to obey any order, in its own nature immoral, though the pope, or any eccleſiaſtical power, ſhould iſſue or direct any ſuch order; but, on the contrary, they hold that it would be ſinful to pay any re-

ſpect or obedience thereto; that they do not believe that any ſin whatſoever, committed by them, can be forgiven at the mere will of any pope, or of any prieſt, or of any perſon or perſons whatſoever; but that any perſon who receives abſolution for the ſame, without a ſincere ſorrow for them, and a firm and ſincere reſolution to avoid future guilt, and to atone to God, ſo far from obtaining thereby any remiſſion of his ſins, incurs the additional guilt of violating a ſacrament; and by the ſame ſolemn obligation they are bound, and firmly pledged to defend, to the utmoſt of their power, the ſettlement and arrangement of property in their country, as eſtabliſhed by the laws now in being; that they have diſclaimed, diſavowed, and ſolemnly abjured any intention to ſubvert the preſent church eſtabliſhment, for the purpoſe of ſubſtituting a catholic eſtabliſhment in its ſtead; and they have alſo ſolemnly ſworn that they will not exerciſe any privilege to which they are, or may become entitled, to diſturb or weaken the Proteſtant religion, or Proteſtant government of Ireland.

Your petitioners muſt humbly beg leave to ſhew, that however painful it is to their feelings that it ſhould ſtill be thought neceſſary to exact ſuch teſts from them, and from them alone of all his majeſty's ſubjects, they can with perfect truth affirm, that the political and moral principles which are thereby aſſerted, are not only conformable to their opinions and habits, but are expreſsly inculcated by the religion which they profeſs; and your petitioners moſt humbly truſt, that the religious doctrines which permit ſuch teſt to be taken, will be pronounced by this Hon. Houſe to be entitled to a toleration, not merely partial, but complete, under the happy conſtitution and government of this realm; and that his majeſty's Roman Catholic ſubjects, holding thoſe principles, will be conſidered as ſubjects upon whoſe fidelity the ſtate may repoſe the firmeſt reliance.

Your petitioners further moſt humbly ſhew, that 26 years have now elapſed ſince their moſt gracious ſovereign, and the Hon. Houſes of Parliament in Ireland, by their public and deliberate act, declared, that "from the uniform peaceable behaviour of the Roman Catholics of Ireland for a long ſeries of years, it appeared reaſonable and expedient to relax the diſabilities and incapacities under which they laboured; and that it muſt tend not only to the cultivation and improvement of this kingdom, but to the proſperity and ſtrength of all his majeſty's dominions, that his majeſty's ſubjects, of all denominations, ſhould enjoy the bleſſings of a free conſtitution, and ſhould be bound to each other by mutual intereſt, and mutual affection," a declaration founded upon unerring principles of juſtice and ſound policy, which ſtill remains to be carried into full effect, although your petitioners are impreſſed with a belief that the apprehenſions which

which retarded its beneficial operation previous to the union, cannot exiſt in the parliament of the united kingdom.

For your petitioners moſt humbly ſhew, that by virtue of divers ſtatutes now in force, his majeſty's Roman Catholic ſubjects, who form ſo great a proportion of the population of Ireland, and contribute ſo largely to the reſources of the ſtate, do yet labour under many incapacities, reſtraints, and privations, which affect them with peculiar ſeverity in almoſt every ſtation of life; that more eſpecially they are denied the capacity of ſitting or voting in either of the Hon. Houſes of Parliament, the manifold evils conſequent upon which incapacity they truſt it is unneceſſary to unfold or enumerate to this Hon. Houſe. They are diſabled from holding or exerciſing (unleſs by ſpecial diſpenſation) any corporate office whatſoever in the cities and towns in which they reſide; they are incapacitated and diſqualified from holding or exerciſing the offices of ſheriffs and ſub-ſheriffs, and various offices of truſt, honour, and emolument, in the ſtate, in his majeſty's military and naval ſervice, and in the adminiſtration of the laws, in this their native land.

Your petitioners declining to enter into the painful detail of the many incapacities and inconveniences avowedly inflicted by thoſe ſtatutes upon his majeſty's Roman Catholic ſubjects, beg leave, however, moſt earneſtly to ſolicit the attention of this Hon. Houſe to the humiliating and ignominious ſyſtem of excluſion, reproach, and ſuſpicion, which thoſe ſtatutes generate and keep alive.—For your petitioners moſt humbly ſhew, that in conſequence of the hoſtile ſpirit thereby ſanctioned, their hopes of enjoying even the privileges which, through the benignity of their moſt gracious ſovereign, they have been capacitated to enjoy, are nearly altogether fruſtrated, inſomuch that they are in effect ſhut out from almoſt all the honours, dignities, and offices of truſt and emolument in the ſtate, from rank and diſtinction in his majeſty's army and navy, and even from the loweſt ſituations and franchiſes in ſeveral cities and corporate towns throughout his majeſty's dominions.

And your petitioners ſeverely feel that this unqualified interdiction of thoſe of their communion from all municipal ſtations, from the franchiſes of all guilds and corporations, and from the patronage and benefits annexed to thoſe ſituations, is not an evil terminating in itſelf, for they beg leave to ſtate, that by giving an advantage over thoſe of their communion to others, by whom ſuch ſituations are excluſively poſſeſſed, it eſtabliſhes a ſpecies of qualified monopoly, univerſally operating in their diſfavour, contrary to the ſpirit, and highly detrimental to the freedom of trade.

Your petitioners likewiſe ſeverely feel that his majeſty's Roman Catholic ſubjects, in conſequence of their excluſion from the offices of ſheriffs and ſub-ſheriffs, and of the hoſtile ſpirit of

thoſe ſtatutes, do not fully enjoy certain other ineſtimable privileges of the Britiſh conſtitution which the law has moſt jealouſly maintained and ſecured to their fellow ſubjects.

Your petitioners moſt humbly beg leave to ſolicit the attention of this Hon. Houſe to the diſtinction which has conceded the elective, and denies the repreſentative franchiſe to one and the ſame claſs of his majeſty's ſubjects, which detaches from property its proportion of political power, under a conſtitution whoſe vital principle is the union of the one with the other, which cloſes every avenue of legalized ambition againſt thoſe who muſt be preſumed to have great credit and influence among the maſs of the population of the country, which refuſes to peers of the realm all ſhare in the legiſlative repreſentation, either actual or virtual, and renders the liberal profeſſion of the law, to Roman Catholics, a mere object of pecuniary traffic, deſpoiled of its hopes and of its honours.

Your petitioners further moſt humbly ſhew, that the excluſion of ſo numerous and efficient a portion of his Majeſty's ſubjects as the Roman Catholics of this realm from civil honours and offices, and from advancement in his majeſty's army and navy, actually impairs, in a very material degree, the moſt valuable reſources of the Britiſh empire, by impeding his majeſty's general ſervice, ſtifling the moſt honourable and powerful incentives to military and civil merit, and unneceſſarily reſtricting the exerciſe of that bright prerogative of the crown, which encourages good ſubjects to promote the public welfare, and excites them to meritorious actions, by a well-regulated diſtribution of public honours and rewards.

Your petitioners beg leave moſt humbly to ſubmit, that thoſe manifold incapacities, reſtraints, and privations, are abſolutely repugnant to the liberal and comprehenſive principles recognized by their moſt gracious ſovereign and the parliament of Ireland; that they are impolitic reſtraints upon his majeſty's royal prerogative; that they are hurtful and vexatious to the feelings of a loyal and generous people; and that the total abolition of them will be found not only compatible with, but highly conducive to the perfect ſecurity of every eſtabliſhment, religious or political, now exiſting in this realm.

For your petitioners moſt expreſsly declare, that they do not ſeek, or wiſh, in the remoteſt degree, to injure or incroach upon "the rights, privileges, immunities poſſeſſions, or revenues, appertaining to the biſhops and clergy of the Proteſtant religion, as by law eſtabliſhed, or to the churches committed to their charge or any of them;" the ſole object of your petitioners being an equal participation, upon equal terms, with their fellow-ſubjects, of the full benefits of the Britiſh laws and conſtitution.

Your petitioners beg leave moſt humbly to obſerve, that although they might well and juſtly inſiſt upon the firm and unabated loyalty of his majeſty's Roman Catholic ſubjects to their moſt gracious ſovereign, their profound reſpect for the legiſlature, and their dutiful ſubmiſſion to the laws; yet they moſt eſpecially reſt their humble claims and expectations of relief upon the clear and manifeſt conduciveneſs of the meaſure which they ſolicit, to the general and permanent tranquillity, ſtrength, and happineſs of the Britiſh empire; and your petitioners entertaining no doubt of its final accompliſhment, from its evident juſtice and utility, do moſt ſolemnly aſſure this Hon. Houſe, that their earneſt ſolicitude for it at this peculiar criſis, ariſes principally from their anxious deſire to extinguiſh all motives to diſunion, and all means of exiſting diſcontent.

For your petitioners moſt humbly ſtate it as their decided opinion, that the enemies of the Britiſh empire, who meditate the ſubjugation of Ireland, have no hopes of ſucceſs, ſave in the diſunion of its inhabitants; and therefore it is that your petitioners are deeply anxious at this moment that a meaſure ſhould be accompliſhed, which will annihilate the principle of religious animoſity, and animate all deſcriptions of his majeſty's ſubjects in an enthuſiaſtic defence of the beſt conſtitution that has ever yet been eſtabliſhed.

Your petitioners therefore moſt humbly preſume to expreſs their earneſt but reſpectful hope, that this Hon. Houſe will, in its wiſdom and liberality, deem the ſeveral ſtatutes now in force againſt them no longer neceſſary to be retained, and that his majeſty's loyal and dutiful ſubjects, profeſſing the Roman Catholic religion, may be effectually relieved from the operation of thoſe ſtatutes; and that ſo they may be reſtored to the full enjoyment of the benefits of the Britiſh conſtitution, equally and in common with their fellow ſubjects throughout the Britiſh empire.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

SHREWSBURY, WATERFORD, and WEXFORD.

FINGALL.	ROBERT PLUNKETT.
KINMARE.	THOMAS BARNEWALL.
GORMANSTOWN.	THOMAS FRENCH, Bart.
SOUTHWELL.	EDWARD BELLEW, Bart.
TRIMLESTOWN.	FRANCIS GOOLD, Bart.
	&c. &c. &c.

INGENUITY *of the* SPIDER.

T. A. KNIGHT, Eſq. of Herefordſhire, has, in a treatiſe on the culture of the apple and pear, introduced the following

ing anecdote concerning this curious animal:—" I have frequently placed a ſpider on a ſmall upright ſtick, whoſe baſe was ſurrounded by water, to obſerve its moſt ſingular mode of eſcape. After having diſcovered that the ordinary means of retreat are cut off, it aſcends the point of the ſtick, and ſtanding neatly on its head, ejects its web, which the wind readily carries to ſome contiguous object. Along this ſagacious inſect effects his eſcape, not, however, till it has previouſly aſcertained, by ſeveral exertions of its whole ſtrength, that its web is properly attached at the oppoſite end. I do not know that this inſtance of the ſagacity of the ſpider has been noticed by any entomological writer, and I inſert it here, in conſequence of having ſeen in ſome periodical publication, a very erroneous account of the origin of the ſpider's threads which are obſerved to paſs from one tree or buſh to another in dewy mornings."

INTERESTING TRIAL.

SUSSEX SPRING ASSIZES.

THE KING *v.* SPREY AND OTHERS.

THIS was an indictment againſt Mr. Sprey, a lieutenant of the navy, and the impreſs officer at Little Hampton; Duke, a ſeaman; and William Meetin, a farmer; for a riot, aſſault, and falſe impriſonment, in preſſing two perſons from Storrington, who were not liable to the impreſs ſervice.

Mr. Serjeant Shephard called the particular attention of the jury to the circumſtances of this caſe, inaſmuch as it involved the moſt ſerious conſequences to the liberty of all perſons in the ſame claſs of life with the perſons whom he then repreſented. The defendant, Sprey, was an officer of the impreſs ſervice, and the caſe he had to lay before them was, that of a wanton abuſe of the power which had been intruſted to him for the good and ſervice of his country, into an engine of private revenge and oppreſſion. The poor man, who now ſtood as one of the proſecutors of this cauſe, for another of them was dead, were both labouring men in huſbandry, and one of them, Sowten, it was ſuppoſed, had given information againſt ſome ſmugglers, particularly againſt a man of the name of Serle, and in revenge they had cauſed him to be impreſſed, although there was no more pretence for doing it, according to the laws of the impreſs ſervice, than there was for impreſſing any man then in court. He was ſorry to add, that from circumſtances it appeared, that Lieutenant Sprey knew he was aiding in the gratification of this private malice, and not in the fair execution of his duty. For it would be in evidence, that after the preſſgang

had broken into the poor man's cottage, and carried him and his ſon away, the lieutenant was applied to, and told, that the perſons he had taken had never been at ſea in their lives. But he refuſed to releaſe them, and directed them to be ſent to Portſmouth. It would be proved too, that he ſaid to one of them, that it was as much a theft to take Maſter Serle's tubs as to ſteal a ſheep from the field, and that the impreſſed man had been *peeling* againſt Serle, and was a man of bad character. The learned ſerjeant then animadverted upon the equal ſecurity which the law afforded to the loweſt as well as to the higheſt. It threw hedge and a wall round the poor man's hut, which it was as criminal to deſtroy or break through, without legal cauſe, as violating the ſecurity of the proudeſt manſion. The cottager might ſleep as ſafely upon his pallet of ſtraw, as the peer on his bed of down. The latch of the cottage door muſt no more be lifted up hoſtilely than the folding doors of the palace be rudely burſt open. The law reſented the violation of both in one equal degree. He paid many encomiums on the naval character, and although his inſtructions had obliged him to ſtate theſe charges againſt a gentleman of that profeſſion, he declared it would give him the greateſt pleaſure to hear them diſproved.

Mary Senter ſtated, that ſhe was the widow of Senter, and that ſhe had a ſon by a former marriage of the name of John Mawley. They lived all together on Storrington Common. On the 27th of February laſt, her huſband had gone to bed at eight o'clock, when their cottage was ſurrounded by eight or ten people, who burſt into it. They dragged her ſon, Mawley, from the chimney corner, and handcuffed him. Two of them then went up ſtairs, and brought down her huſband; one of them dragged him down by the legs, and another by the hair of his head, and then they handcuffed him alſo. She ſaw the priſoner, Duke, there, and W. Meetin was another of them. There was alſo amongſt them, a man of the name of Trevott, who was not in court. They dragged her huſband down without his clothes, but upon his entreaty they allowed him to dreſs himſelf before they handcuffed him. She went to the door, and there ſtood another man, who told her he was the maſter of the people in the houſe, and that he had a piſtol and would ſhoot her if ſhe made a noiſe; they next compelled her huſband and ſon to go with them. The next day ſhe heard by a letter where her huſband was; ſhe immediately ſet out to Little Hampton, and found him at the rendezvous-houſe, a priſoner, and he was ſent from thence to Portſmouth, and did not return for a fortnight and three days. He was then very ill, and ſhe fetched him home from Arundel in a cart. He died in ſix days after he got home. She added, he had not been at work for three weeks before he was impreſſed, having met an accident, by having been cruſhed on

the

the ſide by a waggon. She had known her huſband many years, and he had never been at ſea. She was very poſitive, that the priſoner, Meetin, was one of the men who was with the gang at her cottage.

John Mawley, the ſon of the laſt witneſs, gave the ſame account of his being taken as his mother had done. As they were going up the hill to Arundel, the gang ſwore they would not have come down the hill if they had known that they ſhould only have had a little brandy at neighbour Serle's. At Hampton they were confined in an out-houſe belonging to Mr. Sprey's houſe. He heard Mrs. Sprey ſay that his father had given information againſt the ſmugglers, and that it was as bad as ſtealing a ſheep from the field to take Serle's tubs. While he was there he contrived to ſlip his hand from the handcuffs and made his eſcape, but he was afraid of returning to Storrington, and did not return until after his father was dead. He ſaid he had never been at ſea in his life, and he never heard that his father-in-law had.

Hugh Fullar, a gentleman farmer, of Storrington, depoſed, that in conſequence of an application by Sowten's wife, he went to Little Hampton. He ſaw Lieutenant Sprey, who admitted that he had taken a man of the name of Sowten, but ſaid, that it was more than his place was worth to give him up. The witneſs told him the man was ill, and it might endanger his life; he replied, he knew he was ill, for he had had him examined, but he was not dangerouſly ſo. He aſked for what cauſe he had been impreſſed? The lieutenant ſaid he could not tell. Upon whoſe information? he enquired. He replied that they never told the names of their informers. The witneſs ſaid, if he would not tell the cauſe, nor the name of his informer, he ſhould conceive it originated in a diſpute which the man had had with ſome perſons who were reputed ſmugglers; for the man had worked with him and his father many years, and he could not have done any thing very bad, or they muſt have heard of it. The lieutenant ſaid, he underſtood that he was a very troubleſome fellow, and that the country would be glad to be clear of him, and that, if there were any others of the ſame ſort, he would cauſe them to be removed. He added, that he ſhould cauſe him to be ſent to the receiving ſhip at Portſmouth. The witneſs afterwards wrote to Portſmouth, and the man was liberated.

Charles Butchelor, a taylor, at Storrington ſtated, that he was at the Leg of Mutton and Cucumber public-houſe, at Yapton, on the 18th of March; the landlord aſked, whether they had not had a couple of men preſſed from Storrington, and pointing to Duke, who was in the houſe, ſaid that he was one of the gang. Duke aſked the witneſs whether he had any hand in it? he replied no—and he thought it a pity that the man was preſſed. Duke replied, no pity at all; and ſaid, that "Old Gingerbread," meaning

meaning old Serle, had promiſed to give them 20l. for the job, but he had not done it yet.

Thomas Broad, comptroller of the cuſtoms, at Hampton, ſtated, that Sowton had given information to them a few days before he was preſſed, againſt Serle, and ſome other reputed ſmugglers, in conſequence of which the revenue officers had ſearched their houſes.

This being the caſe on the part of the proſecution, Mr. Serjeant Beſt addreſſed the jury in behalf of Meetin only, and ſtated, that he ſhould prove his being at another place, when he was ſuppoſed to be at Sowten's cottage. Several witneſſes were called, who ſwore to his being at home.

Mr. Knowlys, for Lieutenant Sprey and Duke, contended, that there was no evidence to ſhew that the Lieutenant had acted *mala fide*, and that, although he might have been miſtaken in impreſſing a man not a ſeaman, yet, from policy, he ought to keep a ſecret the ſources of his information. With reſpect to Duke, he ſhould call witneſſes to prove, that he uſed no violence againſt the impreſſed perſons.

He accordingly called all the gang, who agreed in ſtating, that they uſed no harſh meaſures againſt Sowten, and that they all went to Little Hampton very peaceably, Sowten declaring he was glad to find that they were a preſſgang, for he had apprehended that they were ſmugglers, going to murder him in a bye place. They alſo added, that Lieutenant Sprey fell lame in coming from Hampton, and was obliged to ſtop ſhort, conſequently did not go with them as far as Sowten's cottage.

On the croſs-examination of the witneſſes produced to prove Meetin's *alibi*, they deſcribed him as a farmer, but it appeared that his farm was not above five or ſix acres, and that he had more horſes than acres, which ſome of them ſwore they believed neceſſary to cultivate it.

Mr. Serjeant Shepherd commented with great force on this evidence, in his reply; and, after a very minute ſumming up, the jury found all the defendants guilty—finding the lieutenant guilty of the falſe impriſonment, and not of the aſſault.

The judge immediately pronounced ſentence, which was a fine of 50l. on Lieutenant Sprey, three months impriſonment on Duke, and twelve months impriſonment, and a fine of 100l. on Meetin.

DEATH-BED SCENE *of an* INFIDEL.

MR. CUMBERLAND, in the Obſerver, gives us one of the moſt mournful tales, that ever was related, concerning a gentleman of infidel-principles whom he denominates Antitheus.

" I remember him," ſays he, " in the height of his fame, the hero of his party; no man ſo careſſed, followed, and applauded: he was a little looſe, his friends would own, in his moral character, but then he was the honeſteſt fellow in the world; it was not to be denied that he was rather free in his notions, but then he was the beſt creature living. I have ſeen men of the graveſt characters wink at his ſallies, becauſe he was ſo pleaſant and ſo well bred, it was impoſſible to be angry with him. Every thing went well with him, and Antitheus ſeemed to be at the ſummit of human proſperity, when he was ſuddenly ſeized with the moſt alarming ſymptoms: he was at his country houſe, and (which had rarely happened to him) he at that time chanced to be alone; wife or family he had none, and out of the multitude of his friends no one happened to be near him at the time of his attack.

A neighbouring phyſician was called out of bed in the night to come to him with all haſte in this extremity; he found him ſitting up in his bed ſupported by pillows, his countenance full of horror, his breath ſtruggling as in the article of death, his pulſe intermitting, and at times beating with ſuch rapidity as could hardly be counted. Antitheus diſmiſſed the attendants he had about him, and eagerly demanded of the phyſician, if he thought him in danger: the phyſician anſwered that he muſt fairly tell him he was in imminent danger.—' How ſo! how ſo! do you think me dying?'—He was ſorry to ſay the ſymptoms indicated death.—' Impoſſible! you muſt not let me die: I dare not die: O doctor! ſave me if you can.—' Your ſituation, Sir, is ſuch, that it is not in mine, or any other man's art, to ſave you; and I think I ſhould not do my duty if I gave you any falſe hopes in theſe moments, which, if I am not miſtaken, will not more than ſuffice for any worldly or other concerns which you may have upon your mind to ſettle.'—' My mind is full of horror,' cried the dying man, ' and I am incapable of preparing it for death.'

He now fell into an agony, accompanied with a ſhower of tears; a cordial was adminiſtered, and he revived in a degree; when turning to the phyſician, who had his fingers upon his pulſe, he eagerly demanded of him, if he did not ſee that blood upon the feet-curtains of his bed. There was none to be ſeen; the phyſician aſſured him, it was nothing but a vapour of his fancy.—' I ſee it plainly,' ſaid Antitheus, ' in the ſhape of a human hand: I have been viſited with a tremendous apparition. As I was lying ſleepleſs in my bed this night, I took up a letter of a deceaſed friend to diſſipate certain thoughts that made me uneaſy: I believed him to be a great philoſopher, and was converted to his opinions: perſuaded by his arguments and my own experience, that the diſorderly affairs of this evil world could not be adminiſtered by any wiſe, juſt, or provident being, I had

brought

brought myſelf to think no ſuch being could exiſt, and that a life produced by chance, muſt terminate in annihilation: this is the reaſoning of that letter, and ſuch were the thoughts I was revolving in my mind, when the apparition of my dear friend preſented itſelf before me; and unfolding the curtains of my bed, ſtood at my feet, looking earneſtly upon me for a conſiderable ſpace of time. My heart ſunk within me; for his face was ghaſtly, full of horror, with an expreſſion of ſuch anguiſh as I can never deſcribe: his eyes were fixed upon me, and at length, with a mournful motion of his head—Alas, alas! he cried, we are in a fatal error! and taking hold of the curtains with his hand, ſhook them violently and diſappeared.—This, I proteſt to you, I both ſaw and heard; and look! where the print of his hand is left in blood upon the curtains!"

Antiochus ſurvived the relation of this viſion very few hours, and died delirious in great agonies.

What a forſaken and diſconſolate creature is man without his God and Saviour!

On the Uſe of ſteeping Seed Barley in a dry Seaſon.

By Mr. James Chapple.

Addreſſed to the Secretary of the Bath Society.

Sir,

My great ſucceſs in making the following experiment, occaſions my communicating an account of it to you, for the benefit of the public.

The laſt ſpring being remarkably dry, I ſoaked my ſeed-barley in the black water taken from a reſervoir which conſtantly receives the draining of my dung-heap and ſtables. As the light corn floated on the top, I ſkimmed it off, and let the reſt ſtand twenty-four hours. On taking it from the water, I mixed the ſeed grain with a ſufficient quantity of ſifted wood aſhes, to make it ſpread regularly, and ſowed three fields with it. I began ſowing the 16th, and finiſhed the 2d of April. The produce was ſixty buſhels per acre, of good clean barley, without any ſmall or green corn, or weeds at harveſt. No perſon in this country had better grain. I ſowed alſo ſeveral other fields with the ſame ſeed dry, and without any preparation; but the crop, like thoſe of my neighbours, was very poor; not more than twenty buſhels per acre, and much mixed with green corn and weeds when harveſted. I alſo ſowed ſome of the ſeed dry on one ridge in each of my former fields, but the produce was very poor in compariſon of the other parts of the field.

Bodmin, March 12.

[We conſider this experiment as a very intereſting one, and recommend general trials to be made, both in wet and dry ſpring ſeaſons.]

Signal Inſtance of Skill and Activity in Britiſh Tars.

AT Portſmouth, very lately, the Meduſa frigate was taken out of dock about two o'clock on one day, without a maſt ſtanding, and on the evening following, about eight o'clock, ſhe was completely rigged, with top-gallant yards acroſs. This trial of Britiſh ſeamanſhip took place in conſequence of a conſiderable ſum of money betted by Sir Iſaac Coffin and Sir John Gore, that ſhe could not be equipped in her rigging in 38 hours.

It reflects high honour on Sir John Gore, that he repaid his ſhip's company's exertions by dividing the whole ſum won of Sir Iſaac amongſt them.

Magnanimity of the Ruſſian General Munich.

THE commandant of the place where Munich was confined, endeavoured, notwithſtanding the ſtrict orders he had received, to ſoften his ſituation as much as poſſible. He allowed the exile a writing-deſk, and a caſe of mathematical inſtruments, and he alſo permitted him to maintain an intercourſe with ſome of the inhabitants of the country. The governor was the more diſpoſed to grant ſome alleviation to his former general, becauſe, from his diſtance from the capital, he was not apprehenſive of being denounced; but an officer who was travelling that way, having ſtopped ſome days at the place, noticed the relaxation in favour of the field-marſhal, and did not fail to report it on his return to Saint Peterſburgh. The conſequence was not only the loſs of his place, and the riſk of being puniſhed, to the commander, but Munich's ſituation was alſo rendered more ſevere.

Munich being at length recalled, and reſtored to all his former employments, the officer who had betrayed his friend, haſtened to throw himſelf at his feet to ſolicit his forgiveneſs. "Go," ſaid the venerable warrior, "if my heart reſembled your's, perhaps I ſhould ſeek to be revenged upon you; but ſince you can do me no more harm, be at eaſe, I ſhall not do you any."

This was a truly noble inſtance of magnanimity, and reflects great honour on the reſpectable veteran. At the ſame time, if the man who betrayed Munich and his friend poſſeſſed any ſenſibility, he muſt have felt the reproof more ſeverely than if it had been delivered in the moſt boiſterous language.

A QUESTION, *by Cornubias.*

GIVEN $x+y+xy=12$, and $x^3y=$, a maximum to find x and y.

Anſwer, by T. Kite, of Stockland, to T. Boult's Charade, inſerted December 31.

LONG I ponder'd in vain, but now think I am able
To ſolve the charade: It is, Sir, DUNSTABLE.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from Sylvanus, of Awlifcombe; T. Prout, of Mevagiſſey; S. Murch, of Exeter; G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot; A. Kyne, jun. of Dartmouth; J. B. B. of Poole; and J. Channon, of Ottery.

Anſwer, by Primroſe, of Taunton, to T. Shoel's Rebus, inſerted January 7.

WITH due regard thee, ALFRED! let me name,
Renowned prince of Albion's royal line;
With luſtre did thy ſkill and virtues ſhine,
And bright will be thy everlaſting fame.

§†§ We have received ſimilar anſwers from T. Kite, of Stockland; J. Handford, of Bideford; and A. Kyne, jun. of Dartmouth.

Anſwer, by W. Mann, of Aſhburton, to R. Berry's Rebus, inſerted January 7.

O Come, ſweet MUSE! and dwell with me,
For I admire thy progeny.

† We have received the like anſwers from Thomas Kite, of Stockland; J. Toby, jun. of Starcroſs; R. Murch, R. Holwell, and W. Commins, of Exeter; J. Handford, of Bideford; G. Geach, of St. Columb; A. Kyne, jun. of Dartmouth; John Chubb, of Everſhot; John Channon, of Ottery; R. Trewavas, of Mouſehole; W. Tucker, of Tilſhead ſchool; and Thomas Adey, of Poole.

A CHARADE, *by G. Hann, Jun. of Stoke Abbot.*

A Sign celeſtial bring to mind,
And then a place of worſhip find;
Theſe parts, conjoin'd in order true,
Will bring an Engliſh town to view.

A CHARADE, *by J. Channon, of Ottery.*

MY firſt's that wide extended ſpace on high,
Where orbs ſhine bright, and blazing meteors fly;
Where the loud thunders awful peals relound,
While heaven ſpreads my glorious next around:
Such are the parts, let them united be,
In ſome fair building you my whole may ſee.

A CHARADE, *by T. Jarvis, of Malborough.*

MY pious firſt at church appears
With unaffected grace;
My next, a mark of reverence,
Is ſtamp'd upon his face.

My whole is where he kindly opes
The hoſpitable door;
And oft beſtows, with liberal hand,
His bleſſings on the poor.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

On seeing a large and beautiful Oak Tree numbered for felling.

ALAS! that thou, majeſtic oak!
Muſt fall beneath the woodman's ſtroke;
Thy threaten'd doom extorts a tear,
For to my memory thou art dear.
Thou'ſt ſeen me oft, in childhood's day,
Beneath thy umbrage friſk and play;
And there, as riper years advanc'd,
With nymphs and ſwains I've often danc'd.

When gath'ring clouds have threaten'd rain,
How oft I've haſted o'er the plain!
And ſought, beneath thy thicken'd bower,
A ſhelter from the coming ſhow'r:
Or when the fervid orb of day
Pour'd vertical his noon-tide ray,
Full oft "my liſtleſs length" I've laid
Upon the turf beneath thy ſhade.

'Twas in thy ſweet, ſequeſter'd bow'r,
That firſt I felt love's conquering power;
There firſt I gaz'd on Myra's charms,
And gently claſp'd her in my arms;
In artleſs phraſe my love expreſs'd,
While ſhe an equal flame confeſs'd;
O then what rapture fill'd my heart!
Rapture too great for words t' impart,
While ſeated 'neath thy ſpreading boughs
We interchang'd our mutual vows.

Before we left thy native grove,
In memory of our ardent love,
I carv'd our paſſion on thy bark,
Which ſtill retains the ſacred mark.
That mark a painful thought recalls,
While down my cheek the big drop falls;
For woe is me! my Myra's dead,
And with her all my joys are fled.
Cold are her lips, which oft I've preſs'd
With pureſt tranſport to my breaſt;
And pallid is that beauteous face,
Erewhile that bloom'd with every grace;
Her heart, where virtue fix'd its ſeat,
Has now for ever ceas'd to beat;
For ever ſtopp'd her tuneful breath,
And her bright eyes are cloſ'd in death;
Within yon conſecrated mound
She lies beneath the clay-cold ground.
Tho' thou thoſe painful thoughts renew,
Still I delight thy form to view;
With tott'ring ſteps I love to rove,
Abſorpt in thought, amid thy grove,
On pleaſures paſt to ruminate,
And weep for Myra's early fate.

And

And muſt thy fair, majeſtic form,
That oft has brav'd the raging ſtorm,
Ere long be level'd to the ground,
'Mid meaner plants that grow around?
Can nought avert th' impending ſtroke?
Can nought the fatal doom revoke?
Ah no! for on thy trunk I ſee
The mark that ſpeaks the fix'd decree.

Yet when the fatal day ſhall come,
That thou, fair tree! muſt meet thy doom,
In ſpite of him that lays thee low
My plaintive numbers ſtill ſhall flow:
Alas! that thou, majeſtic oak!
Muſt fall beneath the woodman's ſtroke.

Chudleigh, 1805. A. D.

Sonnet, written at the Bedſide of a Poor Woman.

THE gliſtening tears that wet thy wrinkled cheek,
Proclaim the grateful feelings of thy heart;
And to my mind a ſofter language ſpeak
Than all the eloquence of flattering art.
I thank thee for that warm and fervid ray,
Which beaming from thine eye aſcends to Heav'n;
It ſupplicates ſome angel to repay
That ſoothing pity I to thee have given.
I will not ſhun thee, tho' terrific death
Stalks round thy bed, and ſhakes his awful dart;
Humanity ſhall catch thy fleeting breath,
And ſee thy guiltleſs ſoul in peace depart.
Turn to this ſcene, ye gay, a ſerious eye,
And learn of virtuous poverty to die.

TO AMELIA.

TELL me, ſweet angel! how thy lovely form,
Fraught with celeſtial magic to allure,
To ſwell my boſom with an anxious ſtorm,
Can ſlight the ardour of affection pure?

Th' enchanting ſmile, that o'er th' admirer plays,
That gilds th' enjoyments of each happy hour,
Too oft the bitt'reſt pang for abſence lays,
And ſad farewell abſorbs each gentle pow'r.

The tuneful voice, whoſe ſoft, attractive ſtrain,
Firſt bade me tell the feelings of my heart,
Forms but one circle of the tender chain,
That faireſt virtue faſtens ne'er to part.

The fleeting year that nips the blooming flow'r,
Adds to thy rip'ning charms ſome new-born grace;
Each feature ſhows thy mind's attractive pow'r,
Adorn'd with beauties time can ne'er efface.

On the POWER *of* GOLD.

ALL-POWERFUL gold! whoſe magic charms diſpenſe
Worth to the worthleſs, to the graceleſs grace,
To cowards valour, and to blockheads ſenſe,
And to the wither'd maid a Hebe's face.